

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the June 9, 2004 Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this response, claims 13 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 13 and 30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to claims 13 and 30.

Rejections of claim 1-12, 14-29, and 31-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-29, and 31-38 stand rejected over U.S. Patent No. 6,384,824 to Morgan (hereinafter, Morgan) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 7 stands rejected over Morgan, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,297,833 to Ho (hereinafter Ho), under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 14 stands rejected over Morgan, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,704,024 to Voorhies (hereinafter Voorhies), under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Although Applicant disagrees with these rejections,

1 Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 15-26, and 31-38 without prejudice, and
2 amended claims 2, 7, 9, 12, 14, 27, and 29 in order to expedite allowance.

3 More specifically, claims 2, 7, 9, 12, and 14 have been amended to depend
4 from claim 13, which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore,
5 claims 2, 7, 9, 12, and 14 are also believed to be allowable for at least the same
6 reasons as claim 13.

7
8 Claims 3 - 6, and 8 each depend in some form from claim 2, which is
9 believed to be allowable. As such, claims 3 - 6, and 8 are believed to be allowable
10 for at least the same reasons as claim 2.

11
12 Claims 10 and 11 each depend in some form from claim 9, which is
13 believed to be allowable. As such, claims 10 and 11 are believed to be allowable
14 for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

15
16 Claims 27 and 29 have been amended to depend from claim 30, which is
17 believed to be allowable. Therefore, claims 27 and 29 are also believed to be
18 allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 30.

19
20 Claim 28 depends from claim 27, which is believed to be allowable. As
21 such, claim 28 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim
22 27.

23 Conclusion

24 Claims 2 - 14, and 27 - 30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant
25 respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present

1 application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the
2 application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to
3 discuss the unresolved issue.
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Respectfully Submitted,

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